

REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-20 in the application. While no claims have been amended, Claims 21-24 have been added herein. Accordingly, Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the application.

I. Formal Matters

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to designate FIGURE 3 as "prior art." In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, the Applicants submit herewith a replacement sheet including FIGURE 3 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d), thereby overcoming the Examiner's objection thereto.

II. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,879,137 to Sase, *et al.* ("Sase"). As the Examiner is no doubt aware, anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be

disclosed in a single prior art reference; the disclosed elements must either be disclosed expressly or inherently and must be arranged as in the rejected claims.

According to the Examiner, Sase discloses a driver comprising switching circuitry (FIGURE 1, DRV) referenced to a voltage level (FIGURE 14, GND) and configured to provide a drive signal for a switch (FIGURE 14, Q1) referenced to another voltage level (FIGURE 14, Vi) and subject to a control voltage limit (FIGURE 14, gate voltage limit of Q1). (Examiner's Action, pages 2-3).

As indicated with respect to FIGURE 14 of Sase, drivers DRVU, DRVL provide gate drive signals for switches Q1, Q2, respectively, which are illustrated as N-channel devices. In particular, the driver DRVU and the switch Q1 are referenced to a lower terminal of the capacitor CBT, and the drive signal has a voltage equal to a voltage across the capacitor CBT. Additionally, the driver DRVL and the switch Q2 are referenced to ground GND, PG, and the drive signal has a voltage equal to a difference between an input voltage Vcc and ground GND, PG. It should be noted that the solid line in FIGURE 14 around the circuit does not connect the illustrated terminals such as the terminals designated GND (*i.e.*, ground) and Vcc (*i.e.*, input voltage).

Thus, Sase does not teach a driver referenced to a voltage level and configured to provide a drive signal for a switch referenced to another voltage level as recited in Claim 1. Additionally, Sase does not teach providing a drive signal for a switch (referenced to an input voltage of a power converter employing the switch) within a control voltage limit of the switch with switching circuitry referenced from a voltage level different from the input voltage as recited in

Claims 6, 11 and 16. To reiterate and contrary to the Examiner's position, the drivers DRVU, DRVL and corresponding switches Q1, Q2 of Sase appear to be referenced to the same voltage.

Thus, Sase does not disclose each and every element of Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, and the claims dependent thereon, and, as such, is not an anticipating reference. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection in view of Sase with respect to Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16 and 18.

III. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sase, as applied above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,877,611 to Brkovic. The Examiner asserts that Sase teaches the invention as described above but fails to specifically recite a preferred voltage for Vi. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to employ the five volts as disclosed by Brkovic in combination with Sase to apply the five volts for Vi. (Examiner's Action, pages 4-5). The Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is not obvious in view of the foregoing references, and that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the aforementioned claims.

For the reasons as set forth above, Sase fails to teach or suggest the driver or method in accordance with ones of Claims 1, 6 and 11. Sase, therefore, fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 1, 6 and 11, and Brkovic, by the Examiner's own admission, does not even address such a structure or methodology. Thus, since Sase fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 1, 6 and 11, and Brkovic fails to cure the deficiencies thereof, the Examiner

cannot establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claims 2, 7 and 12, which respectively depend therefrom.

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sase, as applied above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,407,579 to Goswick. The Examiner asserts that Sase teaches the invention as described above but fails to specifically recite the details of the driver to the transistor level. According to the Examiner, it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to employ the level shifter as disclosed by Goswick in combination with Sase to drive a power switch. (Examiner's Action, page 5). The Examiner continues by addressing the combination of references in view of the rejected claims. (Examiner's Action, pages 5-6). The Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is not obvious in view of the foregoing references, and that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of the aforementioned claims.

For the reasons as set forth above, Sase fails to teach or suggest the driver, method or power converter in accordance with ones of Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16. Sase, therefore, fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, and Goswick, by the Examiner's own admission, does not even address such a structure or methodology. Thus, since Sase fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, and Goswick fails to cure the deficiencies thereof, the Examiner cannot establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 20, which respectively depend therefrom.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the cited references do not support the Examiner's rejection of Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). In accordance therewith, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

IV. Conclusion

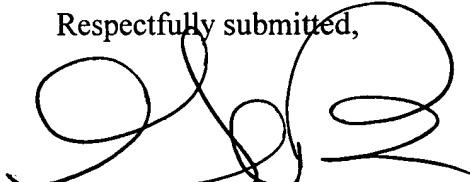
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-24.

The Applicants request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 732-1001 if such would further expedite the prosecution of the present application. If a fee is due in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

May 26, 2006

Date

Respectfully submitted,



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